ANSWER KEY

1. False. Methamphetamine is unique in that it attracts a roughly equivalent amount of male and female users, in contrast to other narcotics such as cocaine and heroin.

2. False. Methamphetamine use is endemic in large cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, and Seattle.

3. e. all of the above. The manufacture of methamphetamine utilizes a number of chemicals and substances, many of which are easily obtainable and many of which carry potentially hazardous health consequences.

4. False. Methamphetamine is much less expensive to manufacture and distribute than cocaine and thus carries a lower street price per dose, a factor that has greatly contributed to its popularity.

5. True. Amphetamines, including methamphetamine, are more widely abused worldwide than cocaine and heroin combined. Use is especially widespread in Europe, Southeast Asia, and Japan in addition to the United States.

6. True. In post-World War 2 Japan, a methamphetamine epidemic was followed by a a major heroin epidemic.

7. False. Methamphetamine affects a wide range of communities, regardless of class, race, or ethnicity.

8. True. Use of methamphetamine is often tied to sexual behavior and is known to lead to particularly high-risk sexual activity, lack of condom use, and multiple unprotected partners.

9. False. Methamphetamine exists in a number of powder and pill forms than can be ingested orally or nasally in addition to ingestion by smoking or injection

10. False. Methamphetamine appears in a variety of forms, not all of the same purity and chemical make-up. Many harmful chemicals, from ammonia to bleach, and even mercury, have been documented in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

11. False. Although known to binge, methamphetamine users typically use on a regular, daily basis. This is in contrast to the binge pattern of most cocaine users, and is influenced by the low cost and long-acting nature of methamphetamine.

12. True. Psychosis is a common effect of methamphetamine use.

13. d. all of the above. Long-term use carries a variety of severe medical consequences.

14. a. dopamine. Methamphetamine floods the synaptic cleft with dopamine, a chemical within the brain that creates the sensation of pleasure.

15. False. Methamphetamine blocks and damages the receptors in the brain that absorb dopamine and thus forces the pleasure-inducing chemical to stay active for an extended amount of time.

16. a. Limbic system. This area of the human brain controls regulates impulses of pleasure related to biological needs ranging from hunger and thirst to sexual activity.

17. False. Damage to the brain cause by methamphetamine is largely treatable and reversible and normal brain function can be restored after a long period of recovery.

18. e. all of the above. A variety of environmental cues are known to create a low-level physical craving for the severely dependent drug abuser.

19. False. Thoughts, environmental cues, and other stimuli are known to create actual physical responses in severely addicted drug users, ranging from increased heart rate to sweating and other physical manifestations of craving.

20. False. Although personal choice determines when one first uses a substance, a basic physiological process takes place that influences addictive behavior when the individual reaches the point of addiction and dependence.